

For Immediate Release October 1, 2004

For Additional Information
Theresa Herrera 505,438,7517

Secretary Norton Announces New Appointments to BLM New Mexico Resource Advisory Council

Santa Fe, NM - Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced today the appointment of five new members to New Mexico's 15-member citizen-based Resource Advisory Council, which advises the Bureau of Land Management on public land issues. Appointed to the Council and their categories are: Wallace Matthew Ferguson, Federal Grazing; Joanne Spivack, Commercial Recreation; William Chavez, Nationally or Regionally Recognized Environmental Organizations; Robert Ricklefs, Dispersed Recreation and Rachel Jankowitz, State Natural Resource Agency.

"We value the input that the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council provides in helping the BLM manage America's public lands," Norton said. "I welcome our new members, thank them for their commitment, and look forward to their counsel as we work to improve the health and productivity of the public lands."

The 15-member BLM Resource Advisory Council for New Mexico provides advice and recommendations to the BLM on resource and land management issues for 13.4 million acres of public lands in New Mexico.

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke said, "RAC members bring a wealth of experience and a wide range of perspectives to each of our councils. This diversity results in a balanced outlook that the BLM needs for its mission, which is to manage the public lands for multiple uses." The BLM, an agency of the Department of the Interior, is responsible for managing these various uses – such as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production – while conserving the land's natural, historical, and cultural resources.

-BLM-

